

USE OF CONVICTS ON ROADS GROWS

Proportion So Employed Has Increased From 1.3 to 13 Per Cent Since 1885.

LEASE SYSTEM IS PASSING

Report by Uncle Sam's Investigators Shows Steady Decrease in Number of Prisoners Employed in Shop Work.

A steady decrease since 1885 in the proportion of convicts in the United States employed in miscellaneous work under lease and contract and a marked increase in the proportion employed for the benefit of the state on highways and other public works are shown in statistics just published by the office of public roads and rural engineering of the United States department of agriculture.

These statistics are included in Department Bulletin 414, which reports one of the first exhaustive studies made in this country covering the administrative, engineering, economic, disciplinary, and health conditions in convict road camps. Representatives of the United States public health service co-operated with the specialists of the department of agriculture in making the studies. The systems adopted by the several states are discussed and recommendations are made for the achievement of greater efficiency in operation of the convict camps and conduct of the road work.

Systems Are Classified.

The systems of convict labor are classified in the report as lease, contract, and piece-price systems, under which the labor of the convicts is for the benefit of private individuals or corporations, often in the manufacture of commodities; the public-account system, under which the convict-made goods are sold by the state; the state-use system, under which the goods are manufactured only for use in state institutions; and the public works and ways system, under which the labor of the convicts is devoted to public structure and roads. The latter system has grown in popularity. It is pointed out, because it makes use of the convict labor with a minimum of competition with free labor, contributes fairly lasting benefits to the whole community, affords healthful and even somewhat reformative employment to the convicts, and reduces congestion in penal institutions. The most satisfactory use of the system, in the opinion of the department's road specialists, is under state rather than county administration. Since 1885, the report shows, the percentage of convicts in a large number of representative institutions working under the public-account, state-use, and public works and ways systems, while the proportion engaged in road work alone has increased from 1.3 per cent to nearly 13 per cent.

Fitted for Outdoor Labor.

Convicts should not be indiscriminately put to work on roads, it is pointed out. Only those who are physically fit for the work should be employed. It may be even desirable and practicable in many instances to reserve assignment to the open-air work as a reward for good behavior. Physically and by former mode of life, statistics show in the report show, about three-fourths of the average male prison population is better fitted for outdoor labor than for shop work. In practice, when all considerations are taken into account, it has been found that from 25 to 50 per cent of the male inmates of prisons are available for road work.

The employment of state convicts in road making, the report shows, first became general in the South in the early nineties. Such use of state convicts has been made by Northern and Western states, however, mostly during the last ten years.

Thirty-Two Diamonds Are Found in Arkansas in Year

Thirty-two diamonds, the largest two and one-half carats, were found in Arkansas in 1915, according to figures just made public by Uncle Sam regarding the production of precious stones in the United States in that year. The value of the state's production of diamonds was less than \$4,000.

Of the \$170,431 of precious stones produced by the United States in 1915 Montana claimed \$105,355, its supplies alone having contributed more than half of the total value for the whole country. California, with a yield of \$22,312, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, Utah, New Mexico, Alaska, Virginia and Maine were other states producing each more than \$1,000 of precious stones.

Hadn't Changed Much.

"Dad, what was the labor of Sisypheus?" "Sisypheus rolled a stone up a hill and as fast as he rolled it up it rolled down again. It was a mythological episode. Nothing has changed today." "Oh, I don't know," interposed, ma. "Washing dishes is just like that."

Lover's Quarrel.

"Hallo, Fitz! where did you get that black eye?" "Oh, it was only a lover's quarrel!" "Lover's quarrel? Why, your girl didn't give you that, did she?" "No, it was her other lover."

16,000 Agricultural Aids.

More than sixteen thousand persons are employed by the United States department of agriculture in improving agriculture, investigating market problems and enforcing federal laws.

BAN ON 'WATER WITCH'

Uncle Sam Officially Explodes Ancient Superstition.

Investigation Shows Remarkable Number of Books and Pamphlets Written on Subject.

Uncle Sam has given an official opinion on the efficacy of the "water witch."

The idea that a forked twig, or so-called divining rod, is useful in locating minerals, finding hidden treasure, or detecting criminals is a curious superstition that has been a subject of discussion since the middle of the sixteenth century, and still has a strong hold on the popular mind, even in this country. This is evident from the large number of inquiries received each year by the United States geological survey, department of the interior, as to the efficacy of such a twig, especially for locating underground water. To furnish a reply to these inquiries, the geological survey has published a brief paper by Arthur J. Ellis, on the history of water witching, with a bibliography that includes a truly astonishing number of books and pamphlets on this uncanny subject.

In summary the paper states: It is doubtful whether so much investigation and discussion have been bestowed on any other subject with such absolute lack of positive results. It is difficult to see how for practical purposes the entire matter could be more thoroughly discredited. It is by no means true that all persons using a forked twig or some other device for locating water or other minerals are intentional deceivers. Some of them are doubtless men of good character and benevolent intentions. However, as anything that can be deeply veiled in mystery affords a good opportunity for swindlers, there can be no reasonable doubt that many of the large group of professional finders of water, oil, or other minerals who take pay for their "services" or for the sale of their "instruments" are deliberately defrauding the people and that the total amount of money they obtain is large.

To all inquiries the United States geological survey therefore gives the advice not to expend any money for the services of any "water witch" or for the use or purchase of any machine or instrument devised for locating underground water or minerals.

The origin of the superstition is lost in antiquity. What is believed to be the first published description of the divining rod is contained in Georgius Agricola's "De re metallica," which was published in 1556. The device became common first in Germany as a means for locating mines and also for discovering buried treasure, a matter of rather common interest in those days, when the practice of burying money and plate for safe-keeping was very general. It was introduced into England by German miners during the reign of Elizabeth (1558-1603), and before the end of the seventeenth century it had spread through the countries of Europe.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century an attempt was made to explain water witching as an electric phenomenon, and later it was discussed as a psychic phenomenon. At almost every step in the advance of science someone has attempted to explain its supposed operation by means of the latest scientific theories.

Before the present war there were several societies in Germany whose sole object was said to be the study of the divining rod. In 1910 the department of agriculture of France appointed a committee to investigate the subject, and in 1914 this committee was still investigating.

FOOD PLENTY FOR WARTIME

Production in United States Ample to Meet All Needs Without Imports Says United States Aid.

Production of foodstuffs in the United States is ample to meet all wartime needs, and the nation would be well fed, even though imports should be absolutely cut off, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carl Vrooman announced in a review of the country's food resources. Food upon which the population would chiefly depend is imported in very small amounts.

Annual production and import figures, compiled by experts under Mr. Vrooman's direction, show that the nation produces 27,000,000,000 pounds of meat and imports less than 100,000,000 pounds, mostly from Argentina, Australia and Canada. Corn, wheat and rice production aggregate 4,000,000,000 bushels. Imports are about 5,000,000 bushels of corn, 6,000,000 bushels of wheat, and 2,500,000,000 pounds of rice. Production of sweet and white potatoes amounts to 45,000,000 bushels. About 200,000 bushels are imported.

"We produce here," Mr. Vrooman's statement reads, "slightly over 2,000,000,000 pounds of sugar and import about 5,500,000,000 pounds, mostly from Cuba. We produce about 7,500,000,000 gallons of milk and import about \$1,500,000 worth, mostly condensed, from the Netherlands and Canada. Our fish production totals 1,000,000,000 pounds, \$17,000,000 worth being imported from Norway and Canada. Our output of butter amounts to 2,000,000,000, and we import less than 1,000,000,000. Annual egg production totals 2,000,000,000 dozen, while we import less than 1,000,000 dozen."

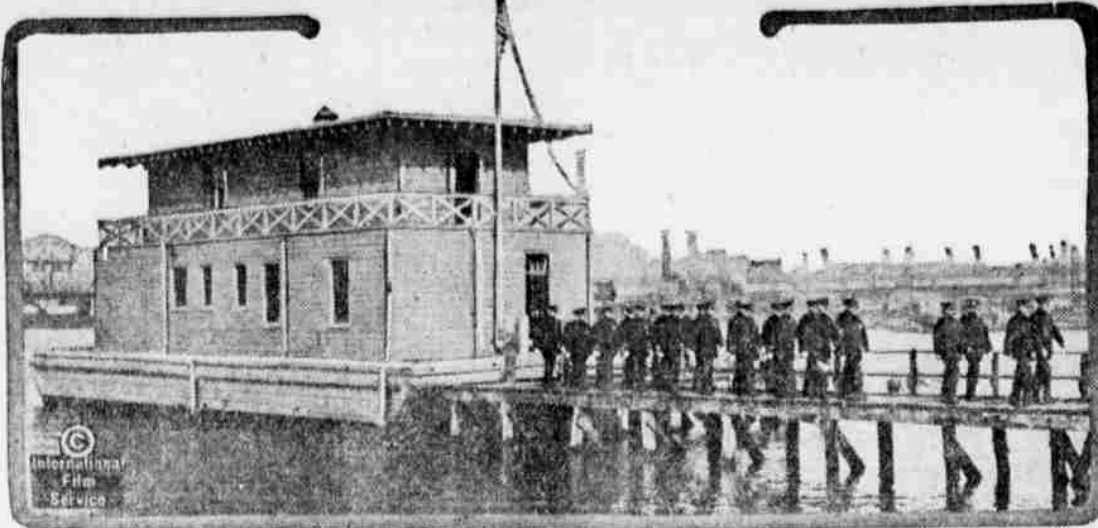
Conserve Space.

For houses of limited room a combined kitchen sink and bathtub has been invented, the former being mounted on top of a cabinet that is moved out of the way when the latter is used, the same faucets and outlet serving both.

Problem of the Desert.

Here comes a cable note that motors are displacing camels in Egypt. It remains to be seen whether the motorist can go eight days without a drink. —Minneapolis Tribune.

FLOATING STATION FOR NEW YORK HARBOR POLICE



The New York harbor police in the Harlem section have just taken possession of their new quarters, a floating station house, moored just off Randall's Island. The new quarters were built by the policemen themselves, together with a marine railway and a wharf on an acre of reclaimed ground.

SECRET SERVICE EVER ON THE ALERT

Valiant Little Band of Patriots About Whose Achievements Little Is Known.

MEANS HEROISM UNREQUESTED

Government Agents Live Lives That for Adventure and Daring Deeds Make "Best Seller" Look Like Tarnished Imitation.

New York.—Coincidence with the discovery of the Zimmerman note, which disclosed the far-reaching plans of Germany to foment trouble in every part of the globe, and the subsequent refusal of Secretary of State Lansing to disclose how the note was obtained, because it would "endanger lives," comes a brief press dispatch from Junco, Mex., announcing the theft of "important papers" from the German consulate there.

To the average reader the Junco dispatch may seem unimportant, yet in all probability it is merely another link forged in the great chain of unknown achievements of our valiant little band of patriots who throughout the entire world are always on the alert in the interest of our country, yet who in time of danger cannot call on us for aid.

This little band of men, who are known only to the state department, and whose names appear in the secret archives of the United States as "A-41" or "C-2175," live lives that for adventure and heroism make the average "best seller" hero look like a tarnished imitation.

So little is known by the general public of the secret agents of our government that to the average person it seems probable no such body of men exists. As a matter of fact, the vast majority of the citizens of the country seem to think the secret service, which in reality is attached to the treasury department, is entrusted with diplomatic work of the "underground" order. This, however, is not the case. Although it is the duty of the secret service and department of justice operatives to run down plots of different kinds that are brewing almost continually within the confines of our own borders, they seldom are sent out of the country.

Busy in All Lands.

In far off Russia, in China, Japan, Germany, France, England, South America, and, in fact, every inhabited part of the globe, there flits the diplomatic phantom, the "secret agent." How many times he has intercepted just such documents as the Zimmerman note will probably never be known outside of diplomatic circles, but this particular feat is a good example of the work done by these "watchdogs of the mist." Using fictitious names and numbers, I will outline their work.

When the war broke out in Europe, broke with all the suddenness of a furious thunderstorm, it was no surprise to those engaged in the great game of "hiding death." In Berlin a dapper youth of decided Teutonic appearance, listed under our own name as "B-45," was fully alive to what was doing.

On the Russian border Ivan Muscovitz, whose reports were signed with another number and letter, straightaway was informed Washington of the Russian preparations, while in France and England Andre Le Rene and Cyril Frothingham, respectively, reported the doings of these two great nations. The youth of Teutonic appearance is killed by a taxicab. Plainly no accident, you would say if you had witnessed the incident, yet the taxicab had followed the Teutonic youth many blocks and was in all probability driven by a decrepit old chauffeur, who is known to Wilhelmstrasse as X-957-681, and who had received notification of the Teutonic youth's activity in the vicinity of some district of military importance.

So died the Teutonic youth. On the register at Washington "B-45" is crossed off as dead and "B X" rushes from Dresden to take his place. The Teutonic youth is an American, born and raised, fighting to protect his country, but, even knowing that his life is in continual danger, he can make

HUTS FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS

New Invention in Use at the Front in France to Shelter the Troops.

Toronto.—A recent invention adding to the comfort of the British and Canadian forces at the French front is described in a dispatch received here from London. It is known as the Nissen hut, a semicircular shelter with the appearance of a big piece of stovepipe, half buried in the earth,

and containing doors and windows. There is room for 25 men in each hut. The convenience of transportation and the speed with which they can be erected enable men hitherto forced to sleep in the open during an advance to obtain shelter.

The event of the week at the Canadian army headquarters at the French front, according to the dispatch, was a visit by Sir Robert Borden, Canadian premier, and Robert Rogers and J. D. Hazen, members of the premier's cabinet. The famous First brigade of the

British secret agents work hand in hand. The Frenchman may discover while doing some work for his own government that there is a plot being hatched for a German invasion of the United States through Mexico. He passes the information along to the British and American agents.

Suddenly a fleet of British and American warships get sailing orders. They depart, "destination unknown." There is no invasion.

Help Each Other.

The American may uncover a message of vast importance to France. His friend, Paul Ledoque, has worked often with him. Paul shall know. And so it goes on, the never ceasing state of activity throughout the world; men come and go, come full of the enthusiastic desire to do for the best interests of the nation, and go by the more violent, yet expected, route of "sudden death."

Unknown, unhonored and unrewarded, they play with death as you play with your own particular amusement, accomplish their ends by any means in their power, yet guarding the nation from more dangers than you ever dreamed could exist.

Not a particularly clean game, for it involves theft, assault and battery and often deliberate murder, but necessary to the preservation of law and order throughout the world and just as honorably enacted as the killing of men in battle.

They are the "watchdogs of the mist" and they flit in and out of this world of strife like so many fireflies. A flicker here, a flicker there, then the light goes out forever. Heroes unrewarded.

GOLD OUTPUT FOR 1916 \$478,625,000

Total Imports of Metal Into United States Were More Than \$200,000,000 Greater.

\$1,300,000,000 DURING WAR

World's Yearly Production Increased More Than Sixty-Fold in a Century —Witwatersrand Most Important Source of Supply.

Washington.—The world's total production of gold last year, though nearly equal to the record output for any year, was less than the amount imported into the United States in that period. Most of the imports came from Great Britain, which controls two-thirds of the production.

The total imports of gold into this country in 1916 amounted to \$685,000,000, and the world's production to \$478,625,000. In 1915 the imports were \$452,000,000 and the world's production \$488,000,000, the highest on record. Since the outbreak of the war, August 1, 1914, the United States has imported a total of \$1,300,000,000 in gold, and has retained approximately \$1,000,000,000 of it.

The decrease in production of nearly \$100,000,000 is accounted for by the statist, which supplies the estimate of production, on the ground of lessened production in Australia and the United States, partly offset by an increase of about \$5,000,000 in the African output.

Source of Gold Supply.

The most important source of the gold supply is the Witwatersrand. With the small output of outside districts of the Transvaal this section produced last year gold to the value of \$197,000,000, a record annual output. Rhodesia produced \$19,480,000; Australia, \$44,210,000; Canada, \$20,250,000; India, \$15,500,000, and the United States, \$95,425,000.

The world's yearly value of gold output during a century ago averaged \$7,500,000, the bulk of which was derived from Russian gold workings in the Ural mountains. Gradually other sources of supply came to be added to Russia's production, and large increases occurred. Such gains were very considerably added to in the late forties and early fifties of last century consequent on the discoveries made in California and Australia.

The discoveries in the two widely separated regions stimulated search in all parts of the world, and especially intermittently during the second half of the nineteenth century there were

and containing doors and windows. There is room for 25 men in each hut. The convenience of transportation and the speed with which they can be erected enable men hitherto forced to sleep in the open during an advance to obtain shelter.

The event of the week at the Canadian army headquarters at the French front, according to the dispatch, was a visit by Sir Robert Borden, Canadian premier, and Robert Rogers and J. D. Hazen, members of the premier's cabinet. The famous First brigade of the

British secret agents work hand in hand. The Frenchman may discover while doing some work for his own government that there is a plot being hatched for a German invasion of the United States through Mexico. He passes the information along to the British and American agents.

Suddenly a fleet of British and American warships get sailing orders. They depart, "destination unknown." There is no invasion.

The American may uncover a message of vast importance to France. His friend, Paul Ledoque, has worked often with him. Paul shall know. And so it goes on, the never ceasing state of activity throughout the world; men come and go, come full of the enthusiastic desire to do for the best interests of the nation, and go by the more violent, yet expected, route of "sudden death."

Unknown, unhonored and unrewarded, they play with death as you play with your own particular amusement, accomplish their ends by any means in their power, yet guarding the nation from more dangers than you ever dreamed could exist.

Not a particularly clean game, for it involves theft, assault and battery and often deliberate murder, but necessary to the preservation of law and order throughout the world and just as honorably enacted as the killing of men in battle.

They are the "watchdogs of the mist" and they flit in and out of this world of strife like so many fireflies. A flicker here, a flicker there, then the light goes out forever. Heroes unrewarded.

Record Production.

For 1916 the value of production was the record one of about \$197,000,000, and at the present time the Rand production alone equals about 41 1/2 per cent of the total gold output of the world, while the whole of Africa shows a proportion of over 47 per cent. There were discoveries in Rhodesia, which in 1915 also attained a record production, and West Africa, from which came native-produced gold dust—hence the names of Guinea Coast and Gold Coast—and which in modern times has, with some slight success, added to the world's supply.

For many years Victoria, of the Australian continent, was the premier producer of gold, but it now yields comparatively a small output. In the mid-nineteenth century discoveries were made in West Australia, and the Coolgardie and other fields quickly put on the pace. The maximum output of the colony of any year was that of 1903—\$43,850,000—but gradually since its production has fallen off. In New Zealand and Queensland finds were reported early in the sixties.

Till quite recent years the output of Canada was nearly all a by-product in connection with copper smelting, averaging till the mid-nineties only about \$1,000,000 worth of gold per annum; but late in the nineties the Yukon field became a fairly important one, and discoveries of out-and-out gold regions in Ontario have recently commenced to show some good figures. Yukon attained its highest in 1900—some \$18,200,000; but in 1916 fell to \$5,000,000.

Dominion's original division passed in review.

Last of the Indian Battles.

The battle with Big Foot's band of Indians at Wounded Knee creek, South Dakota, was fought December 29, 1890. Capt. George D. Wallace of the Seventh cav. reg. and about 80 soldiers were killed, and Lieut. Ernest A. Garlington of the Seventh cavalry, and 88 others were wounded. A large number of the Indians, including 44 squaws and 18 papooses, were killed.

Healthy Skin Depends On Kidneys

The skin and the intestines, which work together with the kidneys to throw out the poisons of the body, do a part of the work, but a clean body and a healthy one depends on the kidneys. If the kidneys are clogged with toxic poisons you suffer from stiffness in the knees in the morning on arising, your joints seem "rusty," you may have rheumatic pains, pain in the back, stiff neck, headaches, sometimes swollen feet, or neuralgic pains—all due to the uric acid or toxic poisons in the blood. This is the time to go to the nearest drug store and simply obtain a 50c. package of Anurie (double or triple strength), the discovery of Dr. Pierce of Buffalo, N. Y. Then drink a cup of hot water before meals, with an Anurie tablet, and notice the gratifying results. You will find Anurie more active than lithia.

HUNDREDS WILL TESTIFY—ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR!

St. Louis, Mo.—"For some time past I have suffered with kidney and bladder trouble, which made me very weak and dizzy. I found doctoring to be very expensive and my recovery was a slow process, so I decided to doctor myself with Dr. Pierce's Anurie Tablets. I have only been taking this medicine one week, but have felt so much better ever since I started taking it that I know it is doing just the work as desired. I feel so confident that it is strictly all it is advertised to be that I am going to keep on with it until I am completely well. I am grateful for what 'Anurie' has done for me so far and am glad to recommend it."—JOSEPH GLASS, 1912 Eleventh St. Send Dr. V. M. Pierce, Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., ten cents for trial package.

W. L. DOUGLAS

"THE SHOE THAT HOLDS ITS SHAPE"

\$3 \$3.50 \$4 \$4.50 \$5 \$6 \$7 & \$8 FOR MEN

Save Money by Wearing W. L. Douglas shoes. For sale by over 9000 shoe dealers. The Best Known Shoes in the World. W. L. Douglas name and the retail price is stamped on the bottom of all shoes of this factory. The value is guaranteed and the wear protected against high prices for inferior shoes. The retail prices are the same everywhere. They cost no more in San Francisco than they do in New York. They are always worth the price paid for them.

The quality of W. L. Douglas product is guaranteed by more than 40 years experience in making fine shoes. The smart styles are the leaders in the Fashion Centres of America. They are made in a well-equipped factory at Brockton, Mass., by the highest paid, skilled shoemakers, under the direction and supervision of experienced men, all working with an honest determination to make the best shoes for the price that money can buy.

Ask your shoe dealer for W. L. Douglas shoes. If he cannot supply you with the kind you want, take no other makes. Write for interesting booklet explaining how to get shoes of the highest standard of quality for the price, by return mail, postage free.

LOOK FOR W. L. Douglas name and the retail price stamped on the bottom.

W. L. Douglas \$3.00 \$2.50 & \$2.00

For W. L. Douglas shoes, 185 Spark St., Brockton, Mass.

Don't rest at night "from" your labors—rather than crawl with the snake.

SOAP IS STRONGLY ALKALINE

And constant use will burn out the scalp. Cleanse the scalp by shampooing with "La Creole" Hair Dressing, and darken, in the natural way, those ugly, grizzly hairs. Price, \$1.00.—Adv.

Hunger is sharper than the sword.—Beaumont and Fletcher.

USE ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE

The antiseptic powder to be shaken into shoes and applied to the footbed, it relieves painful, swollen, smarting feet and takes the sting out of corns and bunions. The greatest comfort ever discovered for all footaches. Sold everywhere, 5c. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.—Adv.

Prehistoric Canoe Found.

A prehistoric canoe has been found at Loch Kinellan, near Strathpeffer, and has been presented to the Fort Augustus museum. The canoe was dug by its builder—what was he like, we wonder?—out of the trunk of an oak tree. It measures 24 feet from stem to stern, and is 2 feet 6 inches wide at its broadest part. In the course of centuries portions of the buried relic have rotted off, but the bottom and the curves of bow and stern are still in good preservation. It was discovered lying five feet below the surface.

Realizing His Importance.

Louis is the only boy, not only in the immediate family, but also in the collateral branches. One night at his nurse's knee he said his prayers loud: "Now I lay me down to sleep, 'I pray the Lord my soul to keep, 'If I should die—'"

Pausing, he reflected a moment, and then broke out: "Golly!" Wouldn't there be a row in this family if that 'ud happen!"—Harper's Magazine.

Fired.

"Is this gun working now?" "No, sir. It's discharged."—Harvard Lampoon.

You Can Make Excellent Cake With Fewer Eggs

Just use an additional quantity of Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder, about a teaspoon, in place of each egg omitted.

This applies equally well to nearly all baked foods. Try the following recipe according to the new way:

CREAM LAYER CAKE

Old Way New Way
1 cup sugar 1 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk 1 cup milk
2 cups flour 2 cups flour
2 teaspoons Dr. Price's Baking Powder 2 cups flour
3 eggs 4 teaspoons Dr. Price's Baking Powder
1/2 cup shortening 1 egg
1 teaspoon flavoring 1/2 cup shortening
1 teaspoon flavoring 1/2 cup shortening

Makes 1 Large 2-Layer Cake

DIRECTIONS—Cream the sugar and shortening together, then mix in the egg. After adding the flour and Dr. Price's Baking Powder together, two or three times, add it all to the mixture. Gradually add the milk and beat with spoon until you have a smooth pour batter. Add the flavoring. Pour into greased layer cake tins and bake in a moderately hot oven for twenty minutes. This cake is best baked in two layers. Put together with cream filling and spread with white icing.

Booklet of recipes which economize in eggs and other expensive ingredients mailed free. Address 1000 Independence Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

Dr. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

Made from Cream of Tartar, derived from Grapes

No Alum No Phosphate No Bitter Taste

Canada Offers 160 Acres Free to Farm Hands

Bonus of Western Canada Land to Men Assisting in Maintaining Needed Grain Production

The demand for farm labor in Canada is great. As an inducement to secure the necessary help at once, Canada will give

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND FREE AS A HOMESTEAD

and allow the time of the farm laborer, who has filed on the land, to apply as residence duties, the same as if he actually had lived on it. Another special concession is the reduction of one year in the time to complete duties. Two years instead of three as heretofore, but only to men working on the farms for at least six months in 1917. This appeal for farm help is in no way connected with enlistment for military service but solely to increase agricultural output. A wonderful opportunity to secure a farm and draw good wages at the same time. Canadian Government will pay all fare over one cent per mile from St. Paul or Duluth to Canadian destination. Information as to low railway rates may be had on application to

G. A. Cook, 2012 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.; C. J. Broughton, Room 412, 112 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill. Canadian Government Agents